

September 28, 2017

Gary Tennenbaum, Director

Pitkin County Open Space and Trails Department 806 West Hallam Street

Aspen, CO 81611

*Via email only to:* *gary.tennennbaum@pitkincounty.com*

**RE: Comments on the Carbondale to Crested Butte Trail**

Dear Gary:

The Pitkin County Healthy Rivers and Streams Board (River Board) assists the Board of County Commissioners of Pitkin County in administering the Healthy Rivers and Streams Fund Program authorized by Pitkin County voters. The voter mandated goals of the River Board include maintaining and improving water quality and quantity within the Roaring Fork watershed, working to secure, create and augment minimum stream flows to ensure ecological health, recreational opportunities, and wildlife and riparian habitat.

The River Board anticipates participating in the Carbondale to Crested Butte Trail Planning process by providing comments by the current comment deadline of October 30th. To ensure the River Board comments are of assistance to the Board of County Commissioners in their evaluation of the proposed project, the River Board requests Open Space and Trails provide the River Board with data to enable comments on the following riverine topics for any proposed trail segment alignments:

* Potential impacts to riparian wildlife and habitat;
* Potential to cause bank hardening;
* Anticipated total acres of native riparian and upland plant habitat disturbed by construction;
* Potential for increased channelization of the Crystal River;
* Identification of probable sedimentation and drainage locations, materials suspended, and volumes;
* Potential impacts to wetlands;
* Identification of any trail segments with in‐river construction, as well as any proposed management plan to mitigate anticipated short and long term impacts of any of the above riverine topics.

If Open Space and Trails is unable to provide this data by our October 19th meeting and prior to the current Crystal River Trail comment deadline, the River Board will ask the

